

The Leesburg Tree Commission met in regular session on Monday August 16, 1999 at 7:30 p.m. in the lower level meeting room, 25 West Market Street, Leesburg, VA. Members present were: Mr. Frye, Mr. Hicks, Mr. Hower, Mr. Peterson, Ms. Pritchard, Ms. Wall and Mr. Zoldos. Staff was represented by Mr. Jay S. Banks and Susan DeJong.

**MINUTES**

The minutes of the July 19, 1999 meeting were approved as written.

**OLD BUSINESS**

Ms. Wall reported that she has written a rough draft of a letter to Homeowners Associations (HOA) informing them of the Leesburg Tree Commission and its purpose.

Ms. Pritchard would like to add that someone from the Tree Commission would be available to speak at their HOA meetings and Mr. Hicks thought that informing the Homeowners of when the Tree Commission meets would be beneficial.

Mr. Banks added that the Town's Website address is: [www.leesburgva.org](http://www.leesburgva.org).

The Commission would also like to enclose "How to Prune your Trees" and "How to Water your Trees" brochures with this mailing.

Mr. Banks brought up the Zoning Ordinance article 9A-24(2) about trees to be installed prior to occupancy. This was an item brought to the Commission's attention at the last meeting and some of the anticipated problems have not occurred. There has been cooperation from the builders and developers as far as either bonding trees and/or planting them. Mr. Banks is now inspecting every lot before occupancy to see that the correct tree has been either planted or bonded.

Mr. Hicks brought up the Flower and Garden Show and Arbor Day sub-committee. Mr. Peterson and Mr. Frye asked to be added to the list of committee members along with Ms. Pritchard, Mr. Groothuis and Mr. Hicks. Ms. Wall thought that having this subcommittee meeting one half hour before the regular Tree Commission meeting each month would be convenient.

Ms. Pritchard asked if the Tree Commission was going to be in charge of the Arbor Day Presentation from now on?

Mr. Banks stated that the Tree Commission was asked to take on a larger roll for the Arbor Day Celebration.

**NEW BUSINESS**

Ms. Pritchard asked about the 2000 BY 2000 leaflets that were supposed to be sent home with school children. Ms. Wall said that Ms. Bell had been working on that and she has not heard from her recently. Ms. Pritchard asked how this worked. Ms. Wall said that you bring the material to the school's Principal's office and it gets distributed from the office when they can.

Ms. Wall mentioned a mailing she received from the Dogwood Ball Committee. This fund raising event will be taking place on October 16, 1999, and the money raised will be used to plant 400 Kousa Dogwood trees along the by-pass in Leesburg.

Mr. Zoldos asked if these trees could be used for the 2000 by 2000 project? Mr. Banks said yes.

**COMMISSIONER COMMENTS**

Mr. Hicks said that the Environmental Advisory Commission (EAC) will be having someone from the City of Falls Church Recycling Program come out to talk at their meeting because they have a program the EAC thinks Leesburg could benefit from.

Mr. Hicks continued, there will also be a Community award given for the Riparian Project at the September Meeting of the EAC. The award will probably consist of a plaque and a monetary recognition. Mr. Hicks also said that the EAC also voted unanimously to accept the Tri-Commission format.

Mr. Frye would like to amend the Strategic Plan to add "what can we as a Tree Commission do to encourage people to plant trees and to educate the people as to what to plant in certain areas." The Commission then discussed various projects they have already undertaken.

Mr. Banks was asked to add his "Small Tree Arboretum" project to the next agenda.

Mr. Peterson asked if there could be some television publicity about caring for trees during a drought and if Mr. Banks would be the one to be on the program? Mr. Banks said he would check with Ms. Farmer.

Mr. Banks has given the three articles that the Commission requested to Ms. Farmer. It was recommended that a cover letter for the Press from the Tree Commission go with these letters. Ms. Wall said she would write this letter and get it to Ms. Farmer.

Mr. Banks said that 2 (two) more trees have been flagged for removal at the Public Safety Center, and there will probably be 3 (three) more street trees lost in the near future.

Mr. Banks went on to say that the Town of Leesburg did not lose any of the new trees due to the drought that were planted in Town.

There being no further business the Tree Commission adjourned at 9:00 p.m.

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Jay S. Banks, Town Arborist

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Susan DeJong, Recording Secretary

